Marine Spatial Planning for Washington’s Pacific Coast

Preliminary Draft Overview
WCMAC - February 15, 2017

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Marine Spatial Planning for Washington’s Pacific Coast

Address potential new uses.

Plan goals/objectives:
• Protect existing uses
• Protect cultural uses/resources
• Preserve environment
• Integrate decision-making
• Provide new economic opportunities

Non-Regulatory Plan

Study area is 700 fathoms offshore: includes state and federal waters and estuaries.
How will the plan help?

- Better baseline information
- Ecosystem indicators to assess changes
- Analyses to support decision-making
- Recommendations for new uses
- Implementation framework across agencies
Plan Requirements

- Maps of Key Ecological Areas, Human Uses, and Appropriate Locations for Renewable Energy
- Implementation Strategy Using Existing State and Local Authorities
- Ecosystem Assessment
- Recommendations for Use Priorities and Limitations, Siting Criteria, and Protection of Unique and Sensitive Biogenic Features
- Coordination Framework for Review of Renewable Energy Projects

RCW 43.372.040(6)
Timeline

• Preliminary draft plan review (February – March 2017)
  – WCMAC and tribal feedback

• Draft plan and draft EIS (May 2017)
  – Public comment period

• Revise and adopt final plan (June 2017)
Preliminary Draft Review

• Purpose:
  – Understand how parts of the plan are coming together.
  – Provide early input to inform revisions for formal draft for public comment.

• How to comment:
  – Email: mspcomments@ecy.wa.gov
## Plan Outline

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Part 1: Background
Part 2: Baseline Information

- Socio-Economics
- Archaeological and Historic Resources
- Ecology
- Current Ocean Uses
- Potential New Uses
- Climate Change

Includes context and maps
Ecology

Map 3: Modeled Bottom Types and Featured Canyons

Figure 2.5: Kelp, Eelgrass, and Saltmarsh
WASHINGTON COASTAL AND OCEAN RECREATION STUDY

The Surfrider Foundation, in partnership with Point 97 and the state of Washington, conducted the Washington Coastal and Ocean Recreation Study in 2014, collecting economic and spatial data on “non-consumptive” recreational uses such as beach going, kayaking, wildlife viewing, hiking & biking, and surfing. Access the full report: washington.surfrider.org

MOST POPULAR ACTIVITIES

- 67% Beach Going
- 36% Photography
- 33% Biking or Hiking
- 62% Sightseeing
- 40% Wildlife Viewing
- 28% Beachcombing

AVERAGE SPENT

$117.14 Per Person Per Coastal Visit

- $33 Gas
- $32 Food
- $22 Lodging
- $8 Shopping

6,500 Surveys Completed • 17,500 Data Points Collected • See Recreational Use Maps Here: www.msp.wa.gov/explore
Fisheries

Map 23
Commercial Fishing: Dungeness Crab

Map 55
Fishing Activity: All Commercial and Recreational
Part 3: Spatial Analyses

- Ecological modeling: seabirds and marine mammals
- Ecologically Important Areas
- Use Analysis

*Provides summary of data, methods, results and findings.*
Ecological Modeling

- Compiled existing datasets
  - 8 species of birds
  - 6 species of mammals
  - Environmental variables

- Predicted relative abundance models

- Model performance and uncertainty
Ecologically Important Areas

- 39 individual layers
  - Common spatial resolution
  - Importance score
  - Uncertainty score

- Combined hotspots

- Broad ecological patterns
  - Species/habitat presence and abundance
Use Analysis: Inputs

Existing Uses and Ecologically Important Areas Input Map

- Sensitive species, habitats, archaeological/historic sites
  - Crab adjusted for sandy-bottoms

- All other use sectors:
  - Fishing
  - Ecologically Important Areas
  - Recreation
  - Transportation
  - Tug/Tow

- All values included (High, Medium and Low intensities)

- Weighted proportional to their intensity/use score
Example: Wind Energy “Industrial Scale”

• Includes all three technology types:
  • Monopile
  • Jacket-mounted
  • Floating

• 300-400 MW scale = approximately 50 square miles.
Plan Outline

Part 1
- Background and Purpose

Part 2
- Context Chapters (Current and Potential Uses)

Part 3
- Ecological & Use Analyses

Part 4
- Management Framework (Recommendations)

Part 5
- SEPA (separate document, likely)
Part 4: Management Framework

- Existing laws and regulations
- Processes for coordination and consultation
- Spatial recommendations
- Recommendations for new uses
- Other activities: plan implementation and adaption.

Integrates and references WCMAC’s recommendations.
A Plan and A Process

1. Resource Inventory

2. Effects Evaluation

WA existing authorities: Ocean Resources Management Act

3. Construction & Operation Plans
   - Monitoring
   - Inspection
   - Decommissioning

4. Adaptive Management of Project

Proposed New Use
Important, Sensitive, and Unique areas (ISUs) in state waters

- Protect sensitive and unique ecological areas from offshore development.
- Examples: Coral, Kelp, Rocky Reefs, Bird colonies, and Forage Fish Spawning areas.
Renewable Energy

- Recommend no industrial-scale projects in state waters to minimize impacts to existing uses and resources.

- Industrial scale – energy at scale for regional grid (larger production/more devices).

- Community scale – energy at scale for local community/communities (smaller production/fewer devices) and with support of local community.
Other Ocean Uses

• Evaluate proposed projects on a case-by-case basis.

• Applicants should seek to avoid adverse impacts to existing uses and ecological areas in state waters.

• The greater the number of existing uses and ecologically important areas or the greater intensity of uses or ecologically important areas will likely result in a more difficult permitting process.
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Questions?

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